

**ARIZONA PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**Summary of Minutes**  
**March 25, 2003**

**Voting Members Present:**

Chairman Dennis A. Garrett, Director, Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Harry Beck, Deputy Chief, Phoenix Fire Department  
David Bennett, Assistant Chief, representing Harold Hurtt, Chief, Phoenix Police Department  
Michael Fusco, Fire Chief, Arizona Fire Chiefs Association  
Karl Hartmetz, Comm. Director, representing Hal Collett, Sheriff, Arizona Sheriffs Assoc.  
Kermit Miller, Assistant Chief, representing Richard Miranda, Chief, Tucson Police Dept.  
Frank Navarrete, Director, Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security  
Roy Ryals, Director of EMS Services, Rural/Metro Ambulance  
Larry Stevens, Commander; representing Danny Sharp, Chief, Oro Valley Police Department

**Voting Members Absent:**

AACOP Representative  
Ray Allen, Assistant Fire Chief, City of Tucson Fire Department  
Jan Hauk, President, Arizona Fire Districts Association

**Other Attendees:**

Mike Branham, Executive Director, Arizona Criminal Justice Commission  
Dennis Busby, Malcom  
Carol Campbell, Project Coordinator, Phoenix Police Department  
John Clymer, Telecommunications Systems Maintenance Supervisor  
Milan Dobras, Telecommunications Engineer, Arizona Department of Public Safety  
David Felix, Lt. Colonel/CJSD Assistant Director, Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Gregory Forrest, Manager, Communications Services, MACRO Corporation  
Robert Frey, Communications Engineer, City of Mesa  
Joe Gibson, Communications Center Manager, Rural/Metro Ambulance  
Jeff Harris, Maricopa County Wireless  
Calvin Hess, Administrative Manager, Pinal County Sheriffs Office  
Joe Hindman, Technology Director, Scottsdale Police Department  
Joe Jakoby, Systems Engineer, City of Tucson  
Curt Knight, Telecommunications Bureau Manager, Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Andy MacFarlane, Communications Engineering Manager, Phoenix Fire Department  
Blake McClelland, Commander, Phoenix Police Department  
Jeff Miner, Communications Engineer, City of Phoenix  
Oscar Miranda, Lieutenant, Pima County Sheriff's Department  
Mark Nyhart, Deputy Chief, Mesa Fire Department  
Jim Omelia, Engineering Manager, Motorola  
Mark Openshaw, Assistant Fire Chief, Gila River Fire  
Jim Perry, Administrator, City of Tucson  
Bill Phillips, Telecommunications Administrator, IT Department, City of Phoenix  
Steve Powles, Telecommunications Engineer, Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Georgene Ramming, Chief of Staff, CJSD, Arizona Department of Public Safety

Kevin Rogers, Support System Analyst, Northern Arizona University Police Department  
Jim Ryan, Homeland Security Technology Manager, GITA  
Kim Smith, Reporter, East Valley Tribune  
Scott Tillman, Telecommunications Engineer, Arizona Department of Public Safety  
Lou Trammell, Assistant Director, Arizona Division of Emergency Management  
Bill Washington, Captain, Tucson Police Department  
John Wilcox, EMS Manager, Air Evac Services, Inc.  
Jane Wixted, Hospital Preparedness Coordinator, Arizona Department of Health Services  
Tim Wolfe, Assistant State Engineer, Arizona Department of Transportation

### **Call to Order**

Director Dennis Garrett opened the meeting at 1:05 p.m. Roll call and introductions of the attendees took place.

### **Minutes**

A motion was made by Michael Fusco to accept the minutes of February 25, 2003, seconded by David Bennett. Motion passed.

### **Arizona PSCC Strategic Plan**

A motion was made by Roy Ryals to accept the AZ PSCC Strategic Plan, seconded by Michael Fusco. Motion passed.

### **MACRO Corporation**

The Statewide Radio Interoperability Needs Assessment contract was awarded to MACRO Corporation. Gregory Forrest, Communications Services Manager for MACRO Corporation, presented an overview of the company, and an overview of the needs assessment project goals/objectives. Project Manager is Mr. Lloyd Collison.

### **Goals**

- Seek input and involvement by largest possible constituency.
- Improve statewide radio system performance and functionality.
- Develop partnerships with existing public and private facilities/infrastructures, and plan necessary new private infrastructures to build a modern wireless system to improve interoperability at a reduced cost.
- Meet the PSWN goal of “seamless, coordinated, and integrated public safety communications for the safe, effective, and efficient protection of life and property.”

### **Approach**

Phase I – baseline stakeholder needs

Phase II – State Emergency Voice Radio Network technology, design and configuration alternatives and tradeoffs.

### **Preliminary Schedule**

- Begin Interviews mid-late April
- Complete Interviews – August/September
- Phase I Report (Draft) – November/December
- Phase I Report (Final) – January 2004
- Phase II Report (Draft) – March 2004
- Phase II Report (Final) – April 2004

David Felix emphasized the committee will rely heavily on all the PSCC members. The focus will be on a broad range of agencies, and coverage expectations will be more “user operational.” The initial focus will be on the long term solutions. It is intended to bring the local regions up to speed. A lot of research has been done to provide the information for the needs assessment presentation.

#### **UPDATES**

**FUNDING SUBCOMMITTEE** - David Felix provided information to the Funding subcommittee. He mentioned a meeting would be scheduled prior to the next PSCC meeting of June 24, 2003.

**CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS** – Director Garrett met with Congressman Ed Pastor last week. He mentioned congressional visits are scheduled in Fairfax, VA on April 9, 2003.

**INTEROPERABILITY DEVELOPMENTS** – David Felix commented that everyone should keep the committee up-to-date on interoperability pilot projects or issues.

**INTEROPERABILITY EXERCISES** – Wild Fire Exercises – In preliminary stages of planning, due to the fire season coming up. It was also suggested that once we get these systems, personnel involved need to do conduct exercises to determine how the systems worked.

**WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT** – DPS is hiring a Webmaster the end of March. He will be tagged with 2 or 3 high priority items and develop an AZ PSCC link.

**SIEC ACTIVITIES** - Curt Knight indicated the AZ PSCC has the authority within Arizona to make suggestions/rules for the 700MHz interoperability portion of the spectrum.

#### **Interoperable Communications Plan and Arizona Homeland Defense Plan**

Mr. Chuck Blanchard, Director for Homeland Security was introduced. Mr. Blanchard reported that the Governor’s office has been involved with putting together a plan. Interoperability needs came up as both a short term solution, as well as a long term solution. There is a need to develop a statewide system, with a plan in place, so when funding becomes available, the funding can be accessed. Homeland Security will receive \$7.4 million dollars due April 22, 2003. Once approved, the funding will be forthcoming immediately. Rather than send all of the money to locals for separate interoperability projects, he asked if it was reasonable to earmark \$2 million dollars for the developing of a statewide system. The intent is to acquire equipment in the next

few months. The idea was opened up for discussion.

Director Garrett indicated he attended a State Chiefs meeting where the Board agreed to earmark Homeland Security funding to support this effort.

Mr. Blanchard is also trying to secure training and development money, securing this through another government agency (Training and Engineering Analysis). The two goals are: 1) to ensure multiple use of the equipment (day-to-day) in case a large crisis occurs, agencies would know how to use the equipment, instead of reading through a manual at the last minute; 2) single entity control of these devices, as a statewide asset.

On April 1, 2003, the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) will host a Radio Interoperability demo scheduled at 10:30 a.m. at ACJC, 1110 W. Washington (Suite 250) in Phoenix. Dr. Brandenstein will demonstrate the ACU1000 Radio Linking System.

#### **Open Discussion / Comments**

The next Region 3 (Arizona) 700 MHz Public Safety Planning Committee meeting is scheduled from 1:00-4:00 pm on March 28, 2003. It will be held in Surprise City Hall.

It was suggested to formalize this committee in some sort of legislation, and look at the advantages/disadvantages. What kind of limitations would this have on the committee? Need to plan and do a briefing on this issue at the next meeting.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 24, 2003, at Arizona POST, 2643 E. University, Phoenix, AZ.

#### **Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.